

Florence, New Jersey
April 2, 2003

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by President Hofflinger at 8:00 PM. President Hofflinger led the Salute to the Flag.

Council President Hofflinger called for a moment of silence for the servicemen and women in Iraq.

The Township Clerk read the following statement: "Notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 5, 2003 and given to the Register News for information. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board."

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

John Hofflinger, President
Frank Baldorossi
John Fratinardo
Bruce Garganio
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

Michael Muchowski, Mayor; Richard Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; William Kearns, Township Solicitor; Joy Weiler, Township Clerk

MINUTES

Sandusky made a MOTION; seconded by Fratinardo to approve the following minutes. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Regular Session
Closed Session

February 19, 2003 and March 5, 2003
March 12, 2003 and March 19, 2003

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Hofflinger; seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Clerk's report and the Police report for March. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Hofflinger made a MOTION; seconded by Sandusky to approve the Treasurer's Bill List. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

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APPLICATIONS

- A. Social Affair: Holy Assumption Carnival, 6/3 – 6/7, 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM
- B. Raffles: Holy Assumption Carnival:
 - Gaming Wheels, 6/3 – 6/7
 - On Premise 50/50, 6/3 – 6/7
 - Off Premise 50/50, 6/7
 - Off Premise Draw, 6/6

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo to approve the above applications.

- C. Free Yard Sale Day: May 10th with May 17th as rain date

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Fratinardo to approve the Free Yard Sale Day.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Varga, 20 Fourth Avenue, thanked Mayor and Council for removing the right hand turn on red from Hornberger Avenue onto Route 130.

Nick DiLullo, 416 E. Fourth Street, questioned Resolution No. 2003-63, Recycling Grant. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the Township is required to report to the DEP the amount of tons that were recycled during the previous year. If there is funding available, depending on the State's budget, the municipality may receive some money for their recycling efforts.

Mr. DiLullo feels that the Township should not have put money into the new recycling center since bottles, cans, newspapers and cardboard are picked up curbside. Mayor and Council explained that the recycling center is used quite often and by having the recycling center it saves the Township money by keeping the items out of the trash stream. Trash costs a pickup fee and a disposal fee.

James Spadafora, 9 Boyd Court, questioned the status of the dock improvements, specifically the addition of another length that was discussed at 2/12/03's meeting. Mr. Guzzi stated that the dock improvements have begun. The Public Works Department is installing new floats, bumpers and an extension on one side of the bumper. He stated that there is no additional length of dock. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that discussion took place regarding a

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spare piece being installed to add length for the personal watercraft users, but it is not feasible at this time. Designating one end of the dock for the personal watercraft users was also considered. This is still the area that is being considered as a launch area for the watercraft users.

Council Member Garganio discussed the congestion problem at the boat ramp, which the improvements will not alleviate. Even though it will be a better quality dock he feels an extension is needed. Mayor Muchowski believes the improvements will help alleviate the congestion since the intended use is to get the trailers parked, not for the personal watercraft users to come in and out of the water to transfer passengers. Also, due to the improvements a higher ramp fee may be required.

Greg Goodwin, 116 Eighth Avenue, stated that he has his boat parked behind the library on Hornberger Avenue, but due to Ordinance No. 2003-08, regulating parking in the library parking lot, he has 20 days to move it. He stated that he may have to sell his boat since he has no place to park it. He asked if the Township could look into finding parking for boats and trailers. Council President Hofflinger explained that it is not the Township's responsibility to provide storage for boats and trailers. He also explained that the boat and trailer parking will be eliminated to allow for overflow vehicle parking. There is more of a need for overflow vehicle parking than boat parking.

Mayor Muchowski explained that the parking problems, including recreational vehicles, have been discussed several times and it was determined that vehicle parking was a larger problem effecting the neighborhood; recreational parking is more of an individual situation. The most effective use for the library lot is parking for passenger vehicles.

Mr. Goodwin suggested a parking lot for recreational vehicles that would require a fee to be utilized. Due to the legalities involved, Council Member Garganio feels that would be better for a private business. Mr. Goodwin suggested some sites that are appropriate for a parking lot. Mayor Muchowski discussed the costs involved and the spending of public dollars to accommodate a private need. He understands Mr. Goodwin's dilemma but explained that out of all the residents there are only ten or so that have a problem with parking for a recreational vehicle.

Nick DiLullo, 416 E. Fourth Street, stated his opinion regarding the abandoned vehicles in the library lot. He feels that that the Township should do something about it. Council Members accepted blame for the condition of the parking lot and explained that this evening's Ordinance is addressing the problem. Council Member Garganio reviewed the improvements that will be made such as lights and striping to allow for overflow parking.

Mr. DiLullo stated that a section of dock has been at the Public Works facility for a few years and pole has been missing for a few years. He asked why nothing is done. Mr. Guzzi explained that the dock was removed years ago and the piling had washed away. The piling was not needed so it was not replaced.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Sandusky; seconded by Fratinardo to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

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Council President Hofflinger thanked Bill Bott for putting up the yellow ribbons throughout town. Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, stated that the Florence Club sponsored the ribbons. He has been working on putting them up on Hornberger Avenue, from Delaware Avenue to Route 130. He asked if anyone would sponsor more bows, he would hang them up on Delaware Avenue down to the foundry. He does not want to see the veterans mistreated when they return as in the past.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2003-61

**APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-62

**AUTHORIZE FILING OF RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT
APPLICATION**

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-63

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2003

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-64

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF TWO 2003 FORD CROWN
VICTORIA POLICE INTERCEPTORS
POLICE VEHICLE, STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE
A45069**

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-65

**DENY REDUCTION OR RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE BOND FOR
WAWA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-66

**APPOINTING ASSISTANT COORDINATOR
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Fratinardo that Resolutions 2003-61 through 2003-65 be adopted.

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On the Question

Mayor Muchowski asked if Resolution No. 2003-61 is making the appointment of the Emergency Management Coordinator or does he do that separately? He also asked if the Resolution includes the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator? Administrator Brook stated that the Resolution is the appointment of Philip Drangula as the Emergency Management Coordinator. A Resolution (2003-66) will be added this evening appointing Gordon Dawson as the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator.

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Fratinardo to amend the above MOTION to include Resolution No. 2003-66.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, stated that Ordinances No. 2003-08 and 2003-09 will be HELD this evening.

**ORDINANCE 2003-07
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE
TOWNSHIP CODE TO ADD A TIME LIMIT PARKING
RESTRICTION ON A PORTION OF FOURTH AVENUE,
WEST SIDE, FROM THE ALLEY BETWEEN MAIN
STREET AND RIVERSIDE AVENUE TO A POINT 46 FEET
SOUTH THEREOF**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo to approve Ordinance No. 2003-07 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

Council President Hofflinger opened the meeting to the public for comments at this time.

Paul Varga, 20 Fourth Avenue, asked for clarification on this Ordinance. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that during certain days and times of the week there will be a time limitation set for one parking space in front of the hairdresser on Fourth Avenue.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo to close the public hearing.
All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

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Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

Solicitor Kearns stated that it was just brought to his attention that there was an important paragraph left out of Ordinance No. 2003-08. The Ordinance will have to be redrafted. After a brief discussion Council decided to approve as is and draft an amendment for the correction. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the amendment extends the time in which a vehicle can park in a residential lot without moving and being considered an abandoned vehicle.

ORDINANCE 2003-08

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE
TOWNSHIP CODE TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC PARKING
IN MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Fratinardo to approve Ordinance No. 2003-08 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

Council President Hofflinger opened the meeting to the public for comments at this time.

Greg Goodwin, 116 Eighth Avenue, asked if the Township would take responsibility if the police department mistakenly had a car towed? Solicitor Kearns stated that if an individual can prove that the Township had a vehicle towed improperly, the Township would have some liability.

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, asked what will happen if someone is sick and cannot move his or her vehicle? Mayor Muchowski stated that there is a provision in which the vehicle owner can notify the Police Department under special circumstances.

Nick DiLullo, 416 E. Fourth Street, asked if the Township owns more land behind the library lot? Council President Hofflinger stated that they do. Mr. Guzzi explained that the property is Green Acres, which cannot be used as a parking lot.

James Spadafora, 9 Boyd Court, asked if Mayor and Council would consider making thirty-eight passenger vehicle spots and twelve trailer spots. Mayor Muchowski explained that after a lengthy discussion it was decided that it would benefit the community more as passenger vehicle parking then recreational vehicle parking. Mr. Spadafora feels that the governing body is exchanging junk boats being parked in the lot for junks cars being parked there. It will be a temporary parking facility not a long-term parking facility.

Mr. Spadafora feels that Mayor and Council did not take into consideration the boats that are parked behind the library, since the Ordinance passed last October prevented boats from being

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parked in front of a home. Mayor Muchowski explained that there was never an allowance for boats to be parked in front of houses. The Ordinance broadened the existing language allowing parking of recreational vehicles on private property. He also explained that Council did take the boat owners into consideration when discussing the lot, but after a rather lengthy discussion it was decided that it was more important to address the passenger vehicle parking. There are alternatives for boat and recreational vehicle owners for parking, such as marinas and boat storage areas.

Mr. Spadafora stated that the Ordinance is not clear on which lots are designated for recreational vehicles. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the Ordinance lists lots and blocks, which is the legal description for the lots. The lot that is designated for recreational vehicle purposes is off of South Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues. The lot is improved with stone and is signed appropriately.

It was on the MOTION of Fratinardo, seconded by Hofflinger to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Council Member Garganio asked for clarification from Solicitor Kearns that it is not a problem to adopt Ordinance No. 2003-08 as is and amend. Solicitor Kearns stated since the amendment will be made next week there is no problem with adopting it this evening.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

Solicitor Kearns stated that he will have a draft revision for Mayor and Council for next week.

Mayor Muchowski stated that since he has ten days to sign the Ordinance, he is going to hold off signing until after next week's meeting to be sure that it is discussed thoroughly.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Nothing at this time.

Mayor Muchowski

- Mayor Muchowski presented two Proclamations this evening: one in honor of Arbor Day and the other in honor of Michael Van Norman, who will become an Eagle Scout on Saturday, April 5, 2003.

Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Assistant Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

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Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Mr. Guzzi stated that the Main Street preconstruction meeting has taken place, so work should begin fairly soon.
- Mr. Guzzi stated that the DOT has announced their grant package for road improvement projects, bikeways and pedestrian walkways for the upcoming year. The filing deadline is June 30th.

Council President Hofflinger explained that he received a call from the owner of Donna's Deli on Main Street asking that he come and look at the alley behind the store. Council President Hofflinger stated that the alley is in very bad shape. Since road improvements will soon be done on Main Street, he asked if Council would be interested in repairing the alley? After a brief discussion of alleys that are in more need of repair, Council not in favor of repairing the alley.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Roebbling Steel Plant Site

Council Member Garganio stated that the EPA was supposed to start working again on the site when the weather broke, which has not occurred. He would like to find out why. Administrator Brook stated that he will include a report in Friday's packet.

Mayor Muchowski explained that a letter would be drafted to the EPA addressing this and other issues, such as funding. He is concerned that the site will not be treated with the same priority now that most of the hazardous cleanup has been done.

NEW BUSINESS

Bingo & Raffles

Council President Hofflinger explained that there is a State Law that prohibits holding a Bingo or Raffles on Sundays unless an Ordinance adopted by the Township states otherwise. He would like to allow Bingo and Raffles on Sundays and asked Clerk Weiler to obtain the necessary information.

US Troops

Mayor and Council discussed different ways that the Township can help the US Troops and their families that are serving. This will be added to next week's Worksession. Mayor Muchowski asked that a list of the Township residents that are serving be compiled.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time.

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9:50 PM MOTION by Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky to adjourn to closed session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:50 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab